

# Short Guide

# MUNICH



Munich: the postcard image of Bavaria and one of my all-time favorite cities in Europe. Beer culture prevails here, but there is so much more to this lively and sophisticated metropolis than golden lagers. Although, if you're not drinking from steins and eating wurst while you're there, you're doing it wrong. When in München, mein Schatz.

Home to about 1.5 million people, the capital of Bavaria is geographically closer to Salzburg and Zurich than Berlin. If your image of Germany involves dirndls, lederhosen, and sausages, you'll find it here in spades. You'll also find exceptional art museums, beautiful historic architecture, upscale shopping, and fine contemporary cuisine.

Like much of Germany, Munich was left in ruins after the Allied bombing campaigns of World War II. As rebuilding began in West Germany, each municipality voted on how to proceed, some deciding to emphasize forward-looking modern architecture, and others, like Munich, deciding to honor the rich architectural grandeur of its past. Munich's churches, palaces, and city blocks were rebuilt in baroque, neoclassical, and neomedieval styles, resulting in a charming, traditionally German aesthetic and a beautiful new-old city.

Munich has evolved into a place that celebrates its rich cultural traditions, acknowledges its difficult history, and moves forward with contemporary life all at the same time. The Old Town or "Altstadt" is the tourist center of the city. There you'll find historic churches and buildings, outdoor markets, biergartens and restaurants. If walkability is important to you, you'll prefer staying in the Old Town. Day trip options abound as well, and public transportation and car rentals are straightforward and efficient in Germany. Whether you only have a couple of days or a full week, there is plenty to keep you occupied in Munich and planning your return visit!





## When to Go

Munich is a year-round destination and there are benefits to visiting in each season. Oktoberfest (two weeks in late September to early October), results in large crowds and busy hotels. If it's on your bucket list, nothing compares to the experience. The weather is wonderful and everyone is in the mood to celebrate. Plan far in advance, as most events require tickets.



If you're chasing holiday magic, Munich in the weeks before Christmas is a dreamland of outdoor markets, gluhwein, and merriment. At the Marienplatz Christkindlmarkt and smaller markets around the city, vendors sell Nutcrackers, ornaments, toys and gifts and people pour in to socialize as the sun goes down. It's the most festive place to spend the Christmas season.

Springtime offers a wealth of outdoor enjoyment and summer brings magnificent weather, with highs in the low to mid-70's. It's the best time to visit for outdoor recreation. That said, I've been to Munich multiple times in winter and it's a terrific time for hearty Bavarian cuisine, museum visits, and of course, beer. It's also a quick hop to Garmish-Partenkirchen for skiing.



## What to See & Do

### Marienplatz & Glockenspiel

Since the year 1158, Marienplatz has been Munich's main square. This historic pedestrian zone is home to the Old Town Hall and the New Town Hall, which features a giant 43 bell Glockenspiel with life-size figurines performing in a scene reminiscent of Mr. Rogers' puppet theater. The vintage production lasts 10 minutes and runs twice a day (3 times in summer).

### Viktualienmarkt

Munich's open-air market with its cheerful giant maypole, is an essential Munich stop. Over 100 stalls offer everything your foodie heart desires, from breads and pretzels to meats and sweets to souvenirs. Notable stalls include Caspar Plautz for inspired potato dishes and Marktpatisserie Lea Zapf for divine pastries. Grab a snack or lunch and enjoy it in the outdoor biergarten.



### Die Pinakotheken

Munich boasts three world class art museums. The impressive historic gallery Alte Pinakothek houses a large collection of Old Master paintings and works from the 14th to 18th Centuries, while Munich's terrific modern art museum Pinakothek der Moderne was built 2002 and features works by Picasso, Dalí, Miró, Magritte, and Ernst. With more time, also visit Neue Pinakothek, for its notable collection of 18th and 19th century art.

### Frauenkirche

The "Münchner Dom," is a huge, distinctive twin-domed church rising above the city skyline. The main church was built in the 1400's, with the tower domes added a century later. After heavy WWII damage, a multistage restoration was eventually completed in 1994.

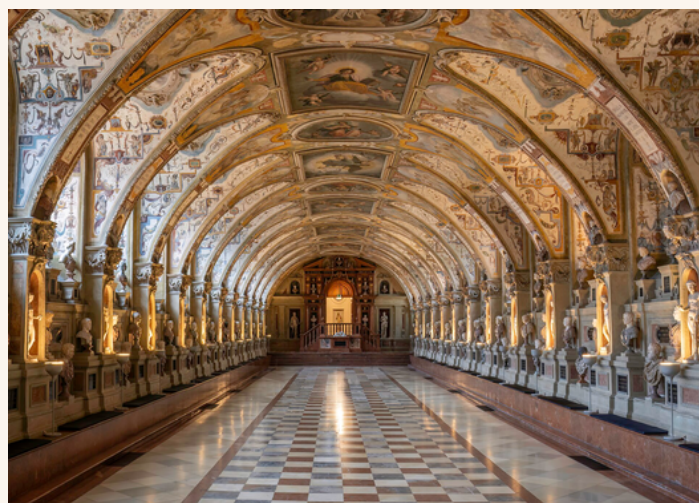


## English Garden

The largest city park in Europe, at over 900 acres of land. It's a must-see on nice days, and especially enjoyable on bike. Check out the Chinesischer Turm, a pagoda-style restaurant amid a biergarten, serving tasty schweinshaxe, bratwurst, and Hofbräu on tap. What's not to love?

## Residenz

The opulent compound of the Bavarian Wittelsbach royal dynasty, both palace and administrative hub. You'll find the Residenz Museum, Treasury (containing family jewels and heirlooms), and the impressive Rococo Old Residence Theater. Strolling around the Residenz transports you Germany before the first world war.



## Dachau Concentration Camp Memorial

Visiting Dachau, about 30 minutes from the city center of Munich, is a profoundly educational and moving experience. A trip to the former camp and museum will take about half a day, but I highly recommend a visit.

## Schloss Nymphenburg & Palace Park

Vast and imposing, the Baroque façade of the Wittelsbach's "summer home" exceeds the width of Versailles. When paired with a visit to the Residenz, it's not hard to imagine the power of the royal family.

## Beer Tasting

Munich is a hub of brewing and beer culture. The local producers are Augustiner, Hacker-Pschorr, Hofbräu, Löwenbrau, Paulaner, and Spaten - and you should sample them all! This is an easy DIY, or I'm happy to point you to some guided tastings and tours.

## Shopping

Fine shopping abounds in Munich. Marvel at grand boulevard Maximilianstrasse, home to couture shops housed in beautiful buildings. Stroll along Maffeistrasse and don't miss Munich's finest department store, Lodenfrey. Around the corner on Dienerstrasse, gourmands will enjoy a visit to Dallmayr - grab some treats for a picnic in the English Garden!

## Where to Eat

Munich's dining scene offers the finest Bavarian cuisine, ranging from the most traditional to most contemporary interpretations. Sure, you can find great Italian or Asian options in Munich, but if you're only there for a short time, focus on local flavors. Tiring of beer? Try a glass of extra dry German Riesling and wines from neighboring Austrian vineyards.

## Görreshof Wirsthaus

The oldest pub in the city serves traditional roast pork, sausage salad, and Münchner schnitzel, with Augustiner on tap. <https://www.gorreshof.de/>

## Julius Brantner Brothandwerk

This eponymous modern bakery is known for spectacular sourdough, rye, and morning pastries in an industrial chic setting. <https://www.julius-brantner.de/en>

## Restaurant & Weinhandel Broeding

A 30+ year fixture of Munich fine dining, Broeding offers a daily six-course menu and earned a Michelin Green Star for sustainable practices. Exceptional regional wine list. <https://www.broeding.de/>

## Xaver's

Self-described as "an evolution of Bavarian pub culture, Xaver's puts a fresh and modern twist on classic Bavarian cuisine. <https://xaver-s.de/>

## Paulaner am Nockherberg

With a sleek modern restaurant and beautiful biergarten, there's much to love here, beyond the Paulaner beer brewing in the two spectacular copper kettles in the dining hall. <https://paulaner-nockherberg.com/en/>

## Andechser Am Dom

Kloster Andechs, a mountaintop monastery with brewery, is a worthy day trip, but the monks also have an outpost in town. This is one of my go-to spots for an authentic Bavarian experience.

<https://www.andechser-am-dom.de/>





# Where to Stay

## Hotel Vier Jahreszeiten Kempinski Munich

Sophisticated 5 star property with royal Bavarian flair, this glamorous hotel on Maximilianstrasse in the heart of Munich is perfectly accessible to shopping, dining, and sightseeing.



Perks and amenities booking with me include daily breakfast, generous hotel credits to enhance your stay, and room upgrades.

## Louis Hotel

Stylish and upscale 3 star boutique hotel with midcentury modern interiors, ideally located adjacent to the Viktualienmarkt. A gem in the Old Town.



Book with me for perks including daily breakfast for two, upgrades & extended checkout whenever possible, and a special amenity or local experience.

## Mandarin Oriental Munich

Probably the finest 5 star hotel in Munich, with all the elegance and luxury expected from a Mandarin Oriental. An oasis in the heart of the city, just a 5 minute walk from the Marienplatz.



As a Mandarin Oriental Fan Club Preferred Partner, I'd be happy to provide you with details about perks and amenities available for this property.

## Hotel Bayerischer Hof

A historic landmark 5 star hotel in the best possible Altstadt location. The property features 6 bars, 5 restaurants, a spa and rooftop pool.



Perks and amenities booking with me include daily breakfast, \$100 food & beverage credits, upgrades and extended check-in/checkout whenever available.

## Going to Munich?

Let's plan a vacation tailored just for you, with some top flight perks along the way.

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